

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 EA-06 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 ACDA-05

OMB-01 TRSE-00 /073 W

----- 028350

O R 051853Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9091

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR FR US

SUBJECT: FRENCH REACTION TO VIETNAM

REACTION OF FRENCH OPINION TO VIETNAM IS A MIXED BAG OF FOLLOWING ELEMENTS: (1) RELIEF THAT AGONY OF VIETNAM IS FINALLY OVER AND U.S. WILL AT LONG LAST BE ABLE TO CONCENTRATE ALL ITS ENERGIES ON WHAT EUROPEANS CONSIDER ESSENTIAL ISSUES--THE STATE OF THE WESTERN ALLIANCE, THE ECONOMIC CRISIS, AND RELATIONS BETWEEN THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AND THE LDC'S; (2) AWARENESS THAT VIETNAM REPRESENTS A CLEAR DEFEAT FOR WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL NATION, AND FEAR THAT U.S. PUBLIC MAY BE DRAWING THE WRONG CONCLUSIONS--DESIRE TO PULL BACK FROM WORLDWIDE RESPONSIBILITIES AND FEAR OF ALL INTERNATIONAL INVOLVEMENT; AND (3) A VISCERAL SATISFACTION THAT U.S. HAS FINALLY TAKEN SOME LICKS AS FRENCH HAVE HAD TO TAKE THEM FOR AN ENTIRE GENERATION SINCE THE LATE 1930'S. ON BALANCE, EMBASSY FEELS THAT ONCE INITIAL EMOTIONAL

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WAVE OF DEPRESSION, FEAR, AND SUBLIMINAL GLEE PASSES

THROUGH FRENCH BODY POLITIC, MOST IMPORTANT PERMANENT  
IMPRINT OF VIETNAM WILL BE RELATED TO FRENCH EXPERIENCE  
OF ALGERIA. THE U.S. HAS DROPPED A HEAVY ALBATROSS FROM  
AROUND ITS NECK, AND AFTER A PERIOD OF INTERNAL TRAUMA,  
THE U.S. WILL EMERGE REFRESHED AND IN A POSITION TO MAKE  
A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE SEARCH FOR SOLU-  
TIONS TO MAJOR PROBLEMS. THERE IS ONE CAVEAT, HOWEVER.  
THE WAY THE VIETNAM PROBLEM ENDED, IN FRENCH EYES,  
REFLECTS A WEAKNESS AND INDECISIVENESS IN THE U.S. EXECU-  
TIVE BRANCH WHICH HAS BEEN SURPASSED IN POWER BY THE  
LEGISLATURE. THE FRENCH SEE THIS PROBLEM LASTING UNTIL  
THE NEXT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION BEFORE WHICH U.S. POLICY  
LIKELY TO BE IN A STATE OF DRIFT.

RUSH

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## Message Attributes

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